IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of examining a record carrier for the presence of a defect comprising

following a track to be examined and monitoring the resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined recording track on the basis of characteristics of the resulting tracking signal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the examined recording track is rated as being defective if the absolute value of the tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined signal threshold for a predetermined period of time or longer.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined signal threshold.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said predetermined period of time lies in a range from approximately 50 μs to approximately 75 μs.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of examining as in Claim 1 wherein the record carrier (1) is examined for the presence of spot defects, the method comprising:

a) examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;

b) examining the integrity of tracks adjacent the relevant test track each time that upon the examination a test track appears to be defective, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;

c) entering the relevant tracks ~~(2)~~ in a defect list each time that the number thus determined in the step (b) is greater than a predetermined threshold value;

d) storing the defect list in a memory.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method as Claimed in Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, ~~particularly a DVR disc,~~ the method comprising:

- first providing, in an examination phase, a defect list of tracks affected by a comparatively large spot defect by means of a method as claimed in Claim 6;
- subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said defect list, the recording tracks included in said defect list being skipped in the recording process.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of examining of Claim 1 wherein the record carrier (1) is examined for the presence of spot defects, comprising:

a) examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;

b) entering the relevant tracks in a primary defect list each time that upon the examination of a test track it appears to be defective, and~~, optionally,~~ entering tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the relevant test track in an alarm list;

c) storing the primary defect list and~~, if applicable,~~ the alarm list in a memory.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped, and wherein each suspect area always extends from the relevant test track to the directly preceding and the directly following test track, respectively.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, ~~particularly a DVR~~

~~disc,~~ the method comprising:

- first providing, in a primary examination phase, a primary defect list of test tracks having a defect and, optionally, an alarm list of tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the relevant test tracks, by means of a method as claimed n Claim 10;
- subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said primary defect list and said optional alarm list, the recording tracks included in said primary defect list as well as the tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the relevant test tracks being skipped in the recording process;
- subsequently examining the integrity of the tracks in said suspect areas in a secondary examination phase, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;
- entering the relevant tracks in a secondary defect list each time that the number thus determined is greater than a predetermined threshold value.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the secondary defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of recording information on a record carrier (1), comprising:

monitoring a recording track <u>to provide a rating of defects contained on the track</u> and based on the resulting tracking signal determining whether the recording process is to be continued or discontinued.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the recording process is discontinued if the absolute value of the tracking signal appears to have a value which exceeds a predetermined signal threshold for a predetermined period of time or longer.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a

maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as the predetermined signal threshold.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said predetermined period of time lies in a range from approximately 50 μs to approximately 75 μs.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A recording device suitable for the recording of information, particularly real time video or audio, on a record carrier of the type comprising a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, particularly an optical disc, which recording device comprises:

- a control unit;
- a write/read unit adapted to aim a laser beam at a track of a record carrier under control of the control unit and to receive laser light reflected from the disc, and further adapted to supply a tracking signal to the control unit, which tracking signal has been determined on the basis of the reflected laser light;

wherein the control unit is adapted to carry out the method as claimed in Claim 16.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined signal threshold is equal to approximately 0.5.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said predetermined period of time is approximately 60 μs.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method as Claimed in Claim 5, wherein approximately 50 tracks between successive test tracks are skipped.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the tracking signal

has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as signal threshold, which preselected fraction is approximately 2/3.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said predetermined period of time is approximately 60 μs.